

Message Text

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EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 9, 1978
(SALT TWO-1654)

SEMENOV STATEMENT, MARCH 9, 1978

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE GENERAL-MAJOR VIKTOR
PAVLOVICH STARODUBOV WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED A MEMBER OF
THE USSR DELEGATION AT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON
THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

EXPANDING ON THE CONSIDERATIONS WE EXPRESSED AT THE
FEBRUARY 8, 1978 MEETING, THE USSR DELEGATION TODAY
INTENDS AGAIN TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF REACH-
ING AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPLES AND BASIC GUIDELINES FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIA-
TIONS ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

WE PROCEED FROM THE PREMISE THAT REACHING AGREEMENT
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ON THIS SCORE ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS WOULD BE
IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF ENSURING THE CONTINUITY AND
CONSISTENCY OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE SIDES IN THE
LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS IN THE INTERESTS OF
STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND REDUC-
ING THE RISK OF OUTBREAK OF NUCLEAR WAR.

AS YOU KNOW, IN THE COURSE OF THE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE DRAFTING GROUP, THE DELEGATIONS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED PRODUCTIVE WORK IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE DOCUMENT UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE RESULTS OF THAT WORK ARE REFLECTED IN THE EXISTING JOINT DRAFT TEXT.

AIMING AT PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED IN THE COURSE OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AFTER THE RECESS THE USSR DELEGATION TABLED A NEW REVISED PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET SIDE FOR THE THIRD SECTION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT. YOU ARE AWARE OF IT. AS NOTED HERE BY THE U.S. DELEGATION AS WELL, THIS SOVIET PROPOSAL REPRESENTS A CONTRIBUTION TO REACHING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE DOCUMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES THAT THE DOCUMENT BEING WORKED OUT MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND BROAD TO REFLECT THE PRINCIPLES AND BASIC GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE SIDES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT PREDETERMINING THEIR RESULTS. OF COURSE, AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS EACH SIDE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, WHICH IT
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CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY FOR DISCUSSION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ENTIRE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT UNDER CONSIDERATION MUST BE BASED ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY, AND PROVIDE FOR FURTHER MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR AND PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH WHICH WOULD LEAD TO ANTICIPATING SPECIFIC RESULTS OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS OR WOULD INTRODUCE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE NO BEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR ASSIGNED TASK AND, IN ESSENCE, WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLES ON WHICH SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE BASED.

WE PROCEED FROM THE PREMISE THAT, MOVING FORWARD FROM ALREADY AGREED PROVISIONS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSAL TABLED BY THE SOVIET SIDE FOR THE THIRD SECTION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT, WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT OF THIS DOCUMENT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL ACCEPTABILITY. EARLE

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